(c) whether there have been cases in which proceedings are not being held on day-to-day basis but on abnormally long intervals on holidays only ;

(d) if so, the details of dates of hearing fixed by the Enquiry Officer till now in each case and the reasons for holding proceedings on holidays only ; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to check such abnormal delays caused in the finalisation of enquiries by the Enquiry Officers to avoid harassment to officials involved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Beach Resorts

1911. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has been planning to develop beach resorts in some States ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) whether any such beach resorts are proposed to be developed in Orissa ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Filling up of vacant posts of Customs Appraisers by Customs Clearing Agents

1912. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Customs Appraisers are promoted to Superintendent en mass specially at Bombay Customs thus creating vacuum at the level of Appraisers as a result of which Customs clearance is badly affected ;

(b) if so, whether there is a persistant demand from Customs Clearing Agents to fill these vacancies of Customs Appraisers to expedite the process of Customs clearance; and

(c) whether the Customs Clearance Agents who had gone on strike in the past are satisfied with the present system of clearance; if not, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) A large number of vacancies in Group 'A' cadre were filled by promoting Group 'B' officers, including Customs Appraisers to Group 'A' in January, 1990. The Custom House Agents' Association demanded filling up of consequential vacancies in Appraisers cadre. Most of such vacancies have since been filled. The Custom House Agents are reportedly satisfied with the position.

Stern Fiscal measures against Black Marketeers, Hoarders etc.

1913. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided in June this year to take stern fiscal measures, indluding stopping of bank credit against hoarders, black marketeers and profiteers; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The Government has been taking appropriate action against hoarders, black marketeers and profiteers under the Essential Commodities Act which include arrests, prosecutions and convictions. Selective credit controls are in operation to prevent speculative use of bank advances in respect of price sensitive essential commodities. Limits of stocks in respect of edible oils and oilseeds have also been reduced.

Progress made in regard to St. Kitts FIR

1914. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in regard to St. Kitts FIR; and

(b) whether any arrests have been made pursuant to the FIR?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) 53 files/documents have been collected and 15 important witnesses have been examined in this connection, so far.

(b) Two arrests have been made, so far.

Drawing of excess "Duty draw back" on exports by M/s. Bata India Limited

1915. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Bata India Limited had claimed and drawn excess "duty draw back" on their exports ; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that on detection of this, the Government had imposed penalty on Bata and also started prosecution against them; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Bata India have come forward for settlement and that the matter stands settled with Bata India, if so, what are the terms of settlement;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government have waived the penalty and have dropped prosecution in this case; and

(e) what are the other companies with whom Government have made settlement in last two years; if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir, Excess Draw back of Rs. 98.57 lakhs approximately on export of rubber/canvas footwears was claimed and drawn by misdeclaring the proportion of consumption of duty paid synthetic rubber and non-duty paid natural rubber in the export product for the period 1-9-77 to 31-8-84.

(b) On detection of the case the Government issued a show cause notice and adjudicated this case. No penalty was imposed nor was any prosecution launched.

(c) Yes, Sir. M/s. Bata India offered and paid back the entire drawback claimed by them immediately and categorically admitted their mistake for having raised incorrect drawback claim and sought forgiveness from the Government. They therefore, requested that department proceedings and prosecution be dropped.

(d) Yes, Sir, In view of the prompt repayment and unconditional apology by the party.

(e) There are no other companies with whom Government have made such settlement in the last two years.